The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

May 2010 | Volume 6, Issue 5 | Copyright RCT

From The Editor...

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Our lives on the two-meter stage...

Lately, we've been hearing more complaints from the membership concerning operations on the club repeaters. Just in case no body noticed, we now have an active repeater committee ably lead by Al W7AML. The club is in the process of converting the old 145.210 machine in north Tacoma over to the Radio Club. Tom and Shirley Murphy have donated the machine to the RCT.

We plan to make it over into a premier wide-area coverage machine serving the Puget sound arena.

To that end, a word seems to be in order, yet again, about how some of us are presenting ourselves on the two meter stage.

Remember, anyone with a scanner/ receiver can and will hear us as we go about our normal daily activities on VHF and UHF. It will not matter if you are on a repeater or simplex, someone, somewhere will probably be listening (and judging) us based on how we behaves ourselves on the air.

So... some quick reminders:

1. Use normal English, especially avoid CB jargon! CB jargon especially grates on the old timers in the audience.
2. Absolutely no cursing, personal attacks or on-the-air bad behavior will be tolerated.
3. Remember the repeaters are a shared resource. Keep conversations fairly short and leave breaks in between transmissions to allow other stations in if necessary.
4. Remember your band plans! FM is allowed only in certain places. Know the plan(s) and use the appropriate mode for the band segment that you are in.
5. In keeping with number 4, remember that simplex frequencies are set according to our regional plan and the separation should allow operations without co-channel interference.
6. In line with number 5, use the minimum power necessary to make the contact!

Club members are allowed and encourages to utilize all the various repeaters, let's try out the newest addition on 145 MHz and don't forget the 442 MHz repeaters as well.

73 all... Gary WG7X

BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 2010

Vice President Rick Rose convened the Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting at 7:00 PM

Board members attending: Rick Rose, Alan Lentz, Frank Palmer, Harry Adams, Joe Lester, Gary McAdams, Si Nelsen, Ken Gibson. Jill Palmer was absent. Peter Baker present as parliamentarian.

Motion to approve the minutes made by Si Nelsen. 2nded by Alan Lentz. Minutes were approved with three corrections.

Correspondence: General correspondence was entered into the log.

Treasurer's Report: $4894.55 is the checking account balance. Joe Lester reported that the audit committee met & reviewed & approved the financial statements. Joe Lester noted that the bylaws require a financial report for the past year to the membership. This report will be given on April 14th.

Committee Reports:
Membership: Rick Rose reported that renewals are coming in. Not holding to March 31st deadline. Receiving 4-8 per day. Rick will determine a cut-off time for the roster at a future time.

Hamfest: Rick Rose reported that Al Burlson, Larry Watson, and Rick Rose are working on Hamfest. More than 1000 fliers were passed out at Mike & Key Hamfest. ARRL sanctioned. Approval for the school has been obtained. Likely tarps on the floors because of gym resurfacing. 110 tables have been ordered.

Property Management: Frank Palmer reported that the tubes in the lock up have been gone through – about 3,500. A few hundred "keepers" were pulled out and determined that the rest should be sold in bulk. Have some prospective buyers interested. Property management team will orchestrate the sale through a closed bid process. The group determined that if they cannot get a pre-determined minimum bid then no other bids will be accepted. Some items have been set aside to sell on Ebay. Rich Patrick will manage the Ebay auction process. Asking for Board approval to move forward with the items on the attached inventory list for sale via auction. Joe asked about the bulk tube bidding process and how people will be informed that the sale is there. Frank reported that the sale will be noted publicly on website, etc.

Harry Adams moved that the board approve the sale/disposal of the equipment listed . Si Nelsen 2nd. All present voted to approve the motion.

Repeater Committee: Al Lentz reported that the annual Crawford Mountain repeater review with DNR occurred and went OK. Still gathering parts for the N7QHX repeater.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

New Business:
Si Nelsen – was asked by Jill to work on standing rules for the meetings and other procedures.

Joe Lester initiated a discussion to repeal the standing rules by proposing a motion to repeal the standing rules. Ken Gibson 2nded the motion. Joe requested to speak in favor of the motion. He indicated that the purpose is to have the Board focus on the Bylaws. Joe provided document titled Arguments in Favor of the Motion. See attached. Frank Palmer and Si Nelson spoke against. Ken asked for clarification.

Rick Rose Restated the question: Joe voted in favor of the motion, Ken abstained, all other voted against.

Si Nelson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Al Lentz 2nd . The meeting closed at 8:17.

SALE

THIS IS A SPECIAL SEALED BID AUCTION TYPE SALE FOR RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA

MEMBERS ONLY

BIDDING PROCEDURE:

Each item will be clearly marked with a "auction item number" on a "green" tag. All items for sale will be on display at the RCT Clubhouse every Saturday until the bid reading. The auction will be open for bidding for approximately 60 days, always ending on a Saturday. Bidding forms, envelopes and a bid deposit box will be provided at the Clubhouse. Simply write your bid amount in the appropriate column. Your bid must be more than any noted minimum. Highest bid wins. Clearly write your callsign on the form and seal the envelope. You may also mail in a bid to Radio Club of Tacoma PO Box 11188 Tacoma, WA 98411. Be sure to mark the envelope "Member Auction"

#	DESCRIPTION	MODEL	CONDITION	MINIMUM BID
#1	TRI-LEG TOWER 24 ft. STEEL w/rotator shelf	ROHN/SPALDING	USED	$50.00

2	HEATHKIT AMPLIFIER	SB-200	USED/AS IS	$200.00

Bidding Start : MAY 5th 2010 Bidding End: JULY 3rd 2010
All mail in bids must be in RCT PO Box by midnight July 2nd 2010
Bids will be opened at noon July 3rd 2010

RCT Club Member is Featured in National Amateur Radio Magazine… *Again*… by Barkie Staff Reporter KR7W

Every May Joe Moell K0OV writes a big article about past hidden transmitter hunts held world wide from the past year in CQ Magazine. This year RCT's own **Chuck AC7QN** is featured.

As you know… Radio Club of Tacoma members host at least two hunts each year for the South Puget Sound hunters. In 2009 the big hunts were held in May and September at Fort Steilacoom Park in Lakewood. The photos and story of the September 12 hunt, which had a big turn out and was deemed a ***ginourmous*** success, were submitted to be considered for publication in CQ Magazine article.

In past years, RCT hunts received more press in the magazine… but none the less, it is nice to be recognized for our efforts world-wide.

The next big hidden transmitter hunt will be held on May 22 at Ft Steilacoom Park. See the www.w7dk.org website for more information. Also, see www.kr7w.org/ARDF for fotos of the September hunt. TU de KR7W –30-

Tom Lewis, AB5CK, buried his hidden transmitter in the snow for an early May transmitter hunt in Bozeman, Montana. Apparently he didn't run much power, because the snow didn't melt and give away the secret. (Photo by Tom Lewis, AB5CK)

It was yet another well-concealed transmitter for the Gallatin Ham Radio Club foxhunt in Bozeman, Montana in April 2009. Cyrus Smith, NU7Q, has just pulled the foxbox out of a pile of wood chips. The beautiful aluminum Yagi with flexible element tips was designed by Harley Leach, KI7XF. (Photo by AB5CK)

face, the mama fox briefly appeared to check us out. It occurred to us that we must have

Chuck Kemmer, AC7QN of Fox Island, Washington looks for fox #7 at the RAC transmitter hunt. Notice the handle on the measuring-tape beam, which is just right for horizontally polarized signals but not for vertical ones. Google satellite maps mounted on cardboard were given to each hunter. (Photo submitted by KR7W)

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Announcing…

Hidden Transmitter Hunt… aka Bunny Hunt, Fox Hunt, Hidden-T Hunt, Fox-tailing

When: Saturday, May 22, from 12 Noon to 4:30 PM

Where: Fort Steilacoom Park (across Steilacoom Blvd from the Field Day site) Gravel parking lot, past the Dog Park, near the path to the lake. Look for vehicle with Yagi Antenna on windshield. Click HERE for Map.

All interested radio enthusiasts are invited. No ham license or experienced required to find a transmitter. Beginners are welcome. Instruction will be provided.

Sponsored by: Al N7OMS, Chuck AC7QN, and Rich KR7W… MORE INFO

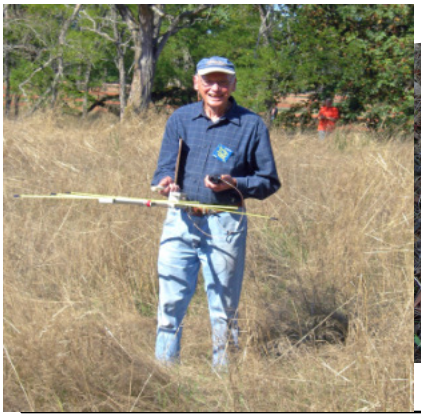
Explore something new, discover some skills about antennas, transmitters, receivers, maps, get outside and hang out with like radio enthusiasts.

This hunt is in conjunction with CQ Magazine's International Hidden Transmitter Hunt weekend. Click HERE for CQ Magazine link.

There will be some equipment to loan out, but please bring your own 2 meter handy-talkie and the instructions.

Bottled water and light snacks will be provided. Note: There is no covered shelter if it rains. Bring what you need to keep yourself comfortable.

More info is listed on the w7dk.org website.



One of the Hidden Bunnies.

The Radio Way-Back Machine: *Farm Radios*
An abbreviated history lesson by Rich KR7W

In 1930 85% of farms in the US had NO electricity. This added up to around 11 million people.

"Farm Radio" became the generic term that was used in early radio retailing to refer to radios sold in the farm market.

Initially these radios were battery operated. These battery sets were cheap to purchase and mostly sold via mail order catalogs. Some radios ran from 6 volts, using automotive batteries. As the technology progressed… the battery plants became 32 volts. Some radios were powered by dry cell batteries. However, the cheap initial cost of these radios was offset by the short dry cell battery life which resulted in many of these radios going unused.

THE NEW 1937 ZENITH FARM RADIOS
NOW AT YOUR DEALER'S
Over 500,000 pleased farmers and ranchers are now enjoying with their Zeniths what you are missing if you haven't radio. You owe it to yourself and children to get it now with a Zenith!
Six months from today you cannot recapture the happiness you and your family have missed in programs of education, comedy, music and drama from the U. S., Europe, South America or the Orient which
Zenith guarantees—every day or your money back. Today, for 50c a year power cost, it's yours with a Zenith!
See Zenith at Your Dealer's
There are 76 different 1937 Zenith models to choose from from $24.95 up among them one that exactly fits your power supply and your pocketbook.
If you have no power—see the new 1937 Zeniths with original Wincharger "50c a year power operating cost."
If you expect power some day—enjoy a Zenith 6V Farm Radio now, then quickly convert it to power later.
If you have power now—examine the Zenith AC sets, always a year ahead. They give more, but cost no more.
Have your dealer give you a FREE home demonstration of the Zenith model that fits your power supply. Learn how much you are missing, how much you can get, with a Zenith —America's Most Copied Radio.
ZENITH RADIO CORP., CHICAGO, ILL.
For 22 years makers of fine radios
MODEL 6-B-164 ZENITH RADIO
MODEL 6-B-129 ZENITH RADIO
ZENITH
LONG DISTANCE
FARM RADIO

WINCHARGER
GENUINE WINCHARGER 6-VOLT
NEW
MODEL '38 6-volt with "PRESSURE CONTROL"
500,000 In all Parts of the World. Enjoy Wincharger "Free Electricity from the Wind".
A revolutionary new Wincharger that sets new standards of perfection in wind-electric design. . . . Offers new simplicity of construction, increased generating efficiency, greater safety in operation, and longer service life. These were the conclusions of exhaustive "wind-tunnel" tests conducted by a prominent American University. Most important of all, the New Model '38 Wincharger has a new governing method known as "Pressure Control" which enables the genuine Wincharger to charge at a much more constant rate, and govern to such perfection that Wincharger actually turns slower, and operates as safely in 70 and 80 mile "hurricane" winds as in a 30-mile wind.
WORLD WIDE ACCEPTANCE
Proved Dependable the World over —and Advertised Everywhere
There are more genuine Winchargers in use than all other makes combined! Wherever you travel throughout the world, genuine Winchargers are known, and they have proved thoroughly dependable. Yes! and they are advertised to consumers all over the world!
WIRE or CABLE today for Distributor Merchandising Plan and literature in English, Spanish or French
STURDY TOWER
Made of braced rail-steel angle-iron. Safe for housetop. Built to resist the force of a hurricane.
WINCHARGER CORPORATION, SIOUX CITY, IOWA, U. S. A.
Cable Address "Wincharger"
World's Largest Manufacturer of Wind-Electric Equipment

Windmills were sold by radio manufacturers to charge batteries to provide power to Rural America through the late 1930s.

In 1927 The **Albers Bros** in Sioux City, Iowa set off on a quest to build a wind charging unit to avoid the once a month fee of $1.00 to charge their wet cell battery that powered their Farm Radio. Their design progressed along and in 1935 the Zenith Radio Corp purchased the windmill operation and it became the popular "Wind Charger" company. Zenith offered a discount on a windmill system if you purchased a Zenith farm radio.

In 1936 the Rural Electric Administration REA began to bring electricity to over 1 million farms. Everyone wanted ***the Electric*** … The most popular item purchased that used ***the Electric*** was an electric iron for Mom. The second item was the Radio.

By Feb 1940, over 500,000 dry battery or windmill powered radios were sold to farms.

Thanks, Joe… you are too kind.

Regards… Rich KR7W **dah dit dit dit dah**

Dateline: April 2010

Sparky's "BARK FODDER"

This and that *Beyond* the club, and more…

Sparky's *Decided to take a shot at bringing into the BARK selected amateur radio articles and stories from other sources. Some from the ARRL, and others from other sources which Sparky thinks might be of interest to the BARK reader*

- *ARRL Solar Updates*
- *ARRL Too Much of a Good Thing*
- *View from the Shack*

Solar Update

Tad "The sunlight struck them with an ever-varying rainbow bloom as they moved" Cook, K7RA, reports: After 13 days of no sunspots, new region 1063 appeared late on Wednesday, April 28. Unknown at this point (early Thursday) is how strong or fast-growing this new sunspot region will be. Earlier region 1062 was only with us for three days, April 12-14. Look for more information on the ARRL Web site on Friday, April 30, including some e-mails about the European ash cloud and the possibility that 72 MHz propagation was depressed because no aircraft were in the sky. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Lost World* (Chapter 15).

NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, SDO, launched aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V from Space Launch Complex-41 at 10:23 a.m. EST on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010. SDO is the first satellite of NASA's Living with a Star (LWS) program. From its geosynchronous orbit, SDO will point its instruments at the Sun, conducting groundbreaking research that is expected to reveal the Sun's inner workings by constantly taking high resolution images, collecting readings from inside the Sun and measuring its magnetic field activity. This data is expected to give researchers the insight they need to eventually predict solar storms and other activity on the Sun that can affect spacecraft in orbit, astronauts on the International Space Station and electronic and other systems on Earth. Click here for more information and SDO images. Photo courtesy of *NASA and Pat Corkery/United Launch Alliance*

FCC News: FCC Seeks Comments on Newly Proposed Rules for Amateur Radio Operators and Emergency Drills

In March, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (*NPRM*) (Docket #10-72) that proposed to amend the Part 97 rules -- specifically 97.113(a)(3) -- governing the Amateur Radio Service. The new rules would provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill. On April 22, a summary of the *NPRM* was published in the *Federal Register* and the FCC is seeking comments on it. Comments must be filed on or before May 24, 2010 (30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*); reply comments must be filed on or before June 7, 2010 (45 days after publication in the *Federal Register*). Instructions on how to file comments are listed beginning on page 5 of the *NPRM*.

Too Much Of A Good Thing

CONVERSATION by Ward Silver N0AX — the ARRL Contest Update Newsletter

Communication - we're all about communication in ham radio and contests stress communications skills, so how could there be too much communication? When communication before the contest starts taking the place of communication during the contest, that's too much communication!

Contests set up limits and rules to exercise specific types of communication activity. There are limits on bands and modes of operation. Participants are required to exchange specific information. There are rules about permitted types of operating. All of these set up a certain type of game, just like in athletics. And just like in athletic events, the game is conducted between specific times or over a specific duration.

We all accept that for athletic events, communication about the conduct of the game outside the time limits for the game is very strictly controlled. For example, the history of a participant's performance may be discussed at length, but discussing the specifics of how a participant will play during an event, except in broad strategic terms, is not allowed. After the event, the conduct of the game is again open to be discussed at length, of course.

It would be absurd for a baseball pitcher to tell the hitters before the game, "You already know I have a fastball, sinker, and change-up. I'm going to throw the fastball in the second inning, the change-up in the third, and the sinker in the fourth. Enjoy!" It would spoil the game because it removes elements of strategy and skill from the competition.

Yet before a ham radio contest, I find this sort of information being exchanged regularly in the form of pre-contest schedules. Before continuing, I'm going to let the VHF+ contest community off the hook on this issue. There is a lot of discussion about technological reasons for VHF+ contesters to consider schedules acceptable. Pre-contest schedules may be an open issue on VHF+, but it has long been decided on HF that they diminish the quality of the event and should not be made…

The ARRL's "HF Contesting - Good Practices, Interpretations & Suggestions" - a white paper on contest operating practices - is clear: "if by announcing your information, another contester can tune to a specific frequency at a specific time and work you", that's over the line. For example, it's fine for someone operating in a state QSO party to let everybody know that they'll be driving through a list of counties and even give a general idea of the route and the order in which the counties will be activated. That increases interest and participation in the contest - go for it! However, when the information expands the detail to "NØAX will be in County X at time Y on frequency Z", that's a pre-contest schedule - don't do it.

There is an exception to the no-schedule rule - schedules made *during* the contest and using the allowed contest bands and modes are acceptable. For example, during the contest it's OK to say, "I'm headed for Podunk County and should be on from there at 0300 on 3830 kHz." You are using the bands and modes the contest is designed to exercise. But before the contest? Unacceptable. Similarly, don't use Internet chat rooms or spotting networks to distribute the information while the contest is underway - those are outside the required bands and modes, and is considered self-spotting.

There is a fine line between what's acceptable and what's not - the circumstances may not always be entirely clear - and our enthusiasm and competitiveness can lead us over it. If you're not sure about something, start by reading and understanding the contest rules - all of them. You can ask an experienced contester or two. The discussion will help you understand what practices are good and bad and why. The HF Guidelines mentioned above touch on many ethical points of contesting. As you spend more and more time contesting, evaluating behavior and deciding what is and isn't across that line, you'll develop a sense for when that quiet voice is whispering, "Too much".

73, Ward NØAX

View from the Shack…

Sparky's added this "BARK FODDER" to selectively choose articles and information which may be of interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma Membership. It will usually include current information from the ARRL as well. .

Sparky

"An idle mind is…. A good way to relax"

The Disclaimer…

These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to distill some of the more interesting amateur radio articles and stories Sparky stumbles across.

Dateline: May 2010

Sparky's "View from the Shack"

This and that around the club, and more…

Sparky's *welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.*

Our Legacy

- *Our Legacy…*
- *Mystery photo*
- *Radio Active Weekend/Sort of*
- *Attaboys*
- *View from the Shack*

Rambling through some of our stacks of historic photos, I stumbled across this one of Doc Spike

It appears to be a Quarter Century Wireless Display at C& G radio, but I have no idea what year it might have been taken.

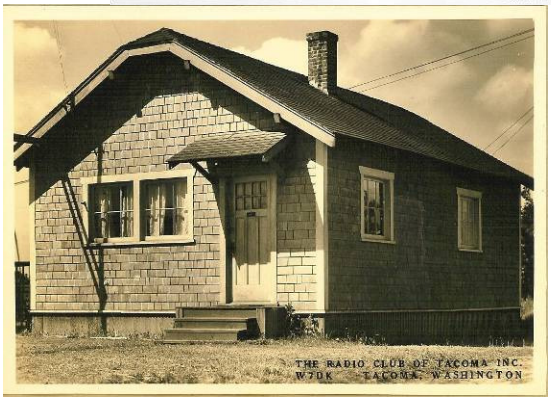
Doc Spike was active in a broad array of Amateur Radio organizations and helped found the area Quarter Century Wireless Association Chapter here in Tacoma. Perhaps someone out there can enlighten us.

I strongly suspect that most of the items displayed in the case, on the counter and held by Doc Spike (W7OS) are probably still in the Club's famous W7OS Amateur Radio Museum now capably managed by Rich Patrick KR7W.

I always wonder how does a historian decide when and what to save to preserve the history of the hobby…

Mystery Photo

This building has was in last month's BARK… It is the first clubhouse purchased and owned by the Radio Club of Tacoma, but was later sold during the depression.



A Radio Active Weekend—Sort of...

A small but energetic group attended the second annual Radio Club of Tacoma "Radio Active" RV outing at the American Sunset RV Park in Westport, Washington.

The weather was reasonably accommodating, with enough dry days to get out and hunt a bunny, visit some of the local community and enjoy the rest and relaxation that comes with getting away for a weekend.

The American Sunset RV provides an outstanding clubhouse, large and well appointed with a full kitchen and space to even play indoor games if you choose. We used it as a general meeting place and for our breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday morning along with a Saturday night potluck.

While there we did a limited bunny hunting exercise, which was fun and provided an opportunity to check out our equipment in preparation for the summer's upcoming hunts. Propagation wasn't as good as we wanted, when we tried to check in to the Whisky Group. We could hear them, but they couldn't hear us.

On Saturday a group of us attended the local and relatively new Westport Winery for a tour and tasting. The owner/host provided a very interesting presentation on the background and history of the area and the development of the winery. They are very community oriented and provide financial support to over a dozen local charities, museums, pet rescue and other worthy causes.

A couple of us visited the historic Westport/ Gray's Harbor Lighthouse, which is still operational and managed by the Coast Guard. Here a docent provided a very detailed description of the history and evolution of the lighthouse.

Attaboys:

This month's Attaboys go first to Rich Patrick KR7W for his initiation of what we hope will continue as the "Saturday Morning Seminars". His kickoff session was a very well done video of the 2009 Hamvention in Dayton Ohio.

This was followed shortly by another Saturday Seminar; this time by Nick Winter K7MO and Rich KR7W promoting and educating folks for the ARRL's

resurrected "Rookie Roundup" The class had standing room only and the Sunday **Rookie Roundup** on air sessions provided exactly what we wanted, an opportunity for

"Rookies" to get on the air in a non confrontational, or competitive environment. Let's hope this one continues.

A continuing "Tip of the Hat" to the Property Management crew who have been busy putting our extensive and surplus tube inventory up for bids, along with continuing the inventory process, and finding gear to turn into cash at our August Hamfest.

View from the Shack...

Its encouraging to see the Rookie Roundup idea re-surface and just in time to get some of the newer/less active folks ready for this year's Field Day..

Hope your antennas survived the late spring windstorm...

Sparky

"When the blind lead the blind, get out of the way"

The Disclaimer...

These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Wookie Woundup… Ginormous Success… *OR*... The Rookie Roundup Was Well Received… by Rich KR7W

Barkie Staff Reporter

Joe asks… What the heck is this Rookie Roundup QRN? Well, Joe…The ARRL took the idea of the old Novice Roundup CW/Morse Code operating event from the 1960s and applied the concepts to newly licensed amateur operators of today. The idea was to get the new hams on the air and be mentored by the experienced OTs (Old Timers)...

Nick K7MO, a life member of RCT, took the concepts five or six steps further. Nick recognized that the new hams in our club had little or no high frequency 'boot camp' of sorts to prepare the less experienced new hams for the upcoming ARRL sponsored event for new-bees, **The Rookie Roundup**. Not only would this get them on the air in April… but it would also be the first step to prepare them for the grand daddy of ham radio events– Field Day held on June 26 this year. Your reporter volunteered to assist in this venture.

Here's the Tucannon Valley - Blue Mountain Radio Club of Dayton collection of Wookies that participated in the ARRL's Rookie Roundup on Sunday April 18.

The boot camp consisted of two three hour sessions on Saturdays April 10 and 17 which provided the new operators with info on how to tune in a Single Sideband signal, using the microphone with a foot switch, giving the needed information to the far end, logging the contact, and lots of other valuable HF operating tips. During a boot camp session… after saying 'rookie roundup' too many times… it came out of my mouth as 'Wookie woundup'. Too many Rrrrrs in a row. The name sorta stuck with the program.

Two groups were formed for the simulated OTA (on the air) practice. One group operated from the HF room with the Ten Tec radio, boom mic, and foot switch... and the second group operated from the Museum where I brought in my Icom 756 Pro2 radio and set it up with boom mic and foot switch. Both radios were transmitting into their own dummy load.

One group called "CQ Rookie Roundup" and the other group responded by 'pouncing' to answer the CQ call. This practice enforced proper tuning, speaking closely into the mic, giving the correct information, logging the correct information and giving "fills" of missing info due to QRM, QRN, and/or operator error. Also, emphasis was made on using the correct Q signals, proper phonetic alphabet, and state/province abbreviations.

It was easy for me to observe that each member of the group that I hosted definitely had some degree of 'mic fright' when they began the museum to HF room QSOs. However, it was rewarding to me to see that towards the end of the second practice session that all participants showed a vast improvement in their ability to get and give info and most importantly… was that their confidence level had elevated ginormously.

On Sunday, April 18, at 11:00 AM… The Rookie Roundup event began. The participants filed into the clubhouse a few at a time for their turn at the microphone in the HF station room. The 756 radio operated on 40 Meters SSB in the Museum whilst the Ten Tec Radio in the HF room operated on 20 meters (a more active band). The first rookie went into the HF room with Nick and closed the door and made their contacts for about 40 minutes each.

Here's Nick K7MO telling explaining the rules of the Rookie Roundup. Many questions were asked… which was good.

I would pop in the HF station and take a couple of fotos on occasion and I noticed that this one-on-one strategy with the Rookie, the Elmer (coach) and the radio worked out quite well… as there was no one else around to be self conscious over. Each Rookie made between 10 to 15 QSOs mostly by calling "CQ Rookie Roundup".

Meanwhile in the Museum… the next couple of Rookies who were 'on deck' could warm up their CQ RR voice using the 756 radio on 40 Meter SSB. Not to many contacts were made on this band, but when one was made… all of the Rookies on deck took their turn at the mic and made the QSO for their log.

Near the end of the Rookie Roundup event a couple of hams said, "I've gotta get me a HF Rig… what do you think of the XXXX 7nnn radio, Rich?"… or "Do you think someone could look at my old ZZZZZ lXX radio?" The Rookies were pretty excited after it was all over that day.

On Saturday, May 8, at 10:00 AM the next event for the graduates of the RR will be Field Day logging software training. This will be more simulated QSOs and entering them into the computer with the software. Record keeping… and important part of ham radio for the successful ham radio operator.

Bob, KE7WPK, takes his turn at the mic. Bob said that he was sweating at the end of his session, but also thought he did pretty well.

Franky, KF7FEF, at the microphone.

Well Joe… did I explain the Wookie Woundup QRN you've been hearing about? That's right, OT… the next big Rookie Event will be Field Day Logging practice on May 8, at 10 AM. More Rookie Roundup fotos on next page.

Thanks for reading this far…Best Regards… Rich KR7W -30-

Don, KF7BAE, makes contact with Shelley in CA using the 40 meter SSB station set up in the Museum. 100 Watts fed into the HF stations wire antenna via a long coax jumper did the trick very well.

Bob, AD7WU, calls CQ Rookie Roundup from the HF station. Bob made 15 contacts on 20 meters SSB, mostly by calling CQ. Bob is learning Morse code and plans to operate in the Rookie Roundup CW event which takes place on Dec 19. At a recent club meeting… Bob professed that he is no longer a rookie.

Rookie Round Epilog…..

Bruce, WE7P, who qualifies for Rookie Status (licensed under 3 years) but pretty much does not have mic fright joined the Rookie boot camp "to see if I am doing it right", he said. Bruce was able to contribute his experiences to the group. Bruce cant wait till Field Day on June 26.

Here's a couple of items the participants of the W7DK RR Boot Camp can do between now and upcoming Field Day (6/26) to better prepare yourselves… Did you notice that I struggled with the proper ***PHONETICS*** when giving some of the demonstrations? I mostly operate CW, so no phonetic alphabet required… but for you SSB folks>>> **proper phonetics** are KING. Don't emulate those loud sounding contest stations with **Z**anzibar **J**apan **T**ukwila… instead, take the time and learn the proper word that represents the letter. Joe asks, "where is the list?"… see **www.w7dk.org/rookie.htm** for the list of helpful documents.

For upcoming Field Day… start getting used to the **ARRL Section** abbreviations.

Where are we at? We are located in the Western Washington section. **WWA**, **W**hiskey **W**hiskey **A**lpha. The list of Sections is on the new webpage. There is a link on the left side of the page called **ROOKIE INFO.**

Other things for hams new to HF to know:

Know your Rig-1. Master the ALC feature of your transmitter… if not set properly, you could be splattering into adjacent SSB conversations.

Know your Rig-2 With older rigs (101Es, TS120s, etc) your receive frequency may not be the same as your transmit frequency. Tune someone in so the tone sounds good to you. Ask the ham at the far end if your transmit audio sounds on frequency.

Know your Rig-3 Make sure that the RIT and XIT are not accidently switched to ON. Read the manual– learn what these controls do.

Know your Rig-4. Make sure the VOX is set like you want it. I never use VOX as I prefer the foot switch or the button on the microphone. What is VOX? Check your radios owners manual.

Know the rules. Stay in the part of the band you are licensed to be in. Example: if you are a General… then stay away from 14.155.MHz (this is my private DX freq, BTW).

Listen… After a while you will learn who the good hams are and the ones ***not*** to emulate, like the loud station whose call ends in Tokyo-Zurich-Tasmania. Or Mr Queen Amsterdam Germany… and so on.

Don't assume anything. Just because I am in the room that I am your control operator so you can operate on my 14.155 MHz DX frequency. **Ask** me (or the other higher licensed hams) if I will be a control operator for you.

There are many more things to remember to do or not to do. Since I am running out of white space here… I will end the article. But I challenge the experienced HF operators to send me their tips for the newly licensed hams… and I will publish them in another Rookie article. Thanks… Best Regards…Rich KR7W –30-

For Bob: dit dit dit dah dit dah

VE REPORT John AC7WW

Fourteen candidates were present at the Radio Club of Tacoma Tuesday, April 13th. Ten Volunteer Examiners graded twenty one elements with twelve being passed.

Eight new Technicians and one General joined the Amateur Service. One candidate upgraded to General and two candidates upgraded to Extra. Three candidates failed to get a new license or an upgrade.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Harry, W7HSA	Steve, AD7VL	Al, AC7BU
Jan, K7HTU	Jon, AD7AW	Rich, KK7VH
Stephen, AD7AB	Mike, AD7TH	Bob, AD7LJ

The next scheduled testing session will be Tuesday, May 11th, 2010.

GREMLINS FROM THE KREMLIN!!!

Congratulations to Bob; "Russian Rhapsody 1944" AD7WU, for correctly getting the cartoon reference from the "Ginormus" April issue of the "Barkie"

The Radio Club of Tacoma's Logger's Bark

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $30 per calendar year. $25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:

MAY 2010 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays May 12th and 26th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday May 5th 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz.

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz.